

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS:

The California Department of Corrections proposes amendments to Title 15, California Code of Regulations, Section 3041.3, to clarify provisions regarding parolee access to departmental computers, local area networks, and ancillary communication devices.

These changes are necessary to ensure that parolees or other unauthorized persons have no access to computers or computer data in parole offices.

Section 3041.3 is amended to add parolees to the title of the section regarding inmate access to computers. This is necessary because parolees could represent a serious security concern if they were able to read or modify departmental computer data, access computer networks, which may include confidential information, or tamper with departmental computers.

Section 3041.3(n) is added to in order to ensure that each parole office will take steps to ensure the security of such equipment from unauthorized parolee access. This is necessary to safeguard against any security breach, which would occur if computers, equipment, and data were accessible to unauthorized persons, particularly parolees. Each office will be thereby able to address any unique security issues specific to the location, equipment configuration or physical layout particular to it's setting.

Further language is added to make each Parole Office Administrator responsible for the dissemination and enforcement of any computer protocols for the office to which he or she is assigned, as required for the enforcement of the new subsection. This is necessary to ensure a clear understanding of this responsibility and to generate awareness of specific security issues or problems and the need for compliance by all parole office staff.

The Department must determine that no alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose of this action or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected persons.

